

THE CHINA MAIL.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 1866

BIRTHS.

At Foochow, on the 4th December, the wife of the Rev. R. J. W. of a son.
At Hongkong, on Sunday, the 9th December, the wife of JAMES J. DENAWAY, Deputy Purveyor to H. B. M. S. Forces, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

Suddenly on the morning of the 8th Inst. *FRANZ MARIA*, the wife of W. K. DENAWAY, on the 6th December, Grace Norris, 2nd Steward, P. & O. Steam Ship *Eden*, aged 36 years, (of Consumption).
At the General Hospital, Hongkong, on the 11th December, GEORGE MASTERS, Private 2nd Bat. 20th Regiment, aged 22 years.
At Hongkong, on the 30th November, SARAH, Wife of Wm. Howard, of H.M. Naval Yard, aged 48 years.
On Board H.M.S. *Meridon*, on the 11th December, SARAH YARU, Sailmaker's Mate, H.M.S. *Heper*, aged 38 years.
On Board the U.S. Ship *Harford*, Hongkong, on the 12th December, HENRY WILLIAMS, Chief Boatwain's Mate.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

JAPAN.

THE most important news to hand from Japan is that of the great fire at Yokohama. We must refer our readers to other portions of our columns for details but briefly the account received is as follows:—

On the 20th November, 1866, nearly two-thirds of the native town, and one-sixth of the foreign settlement at Yokohama were consumed by fire. At a little before nine in the morning, the fire bell rung its alarm, and all rushed to the scene, which was found to be the street leading from Bentendori to Yoshiwara. In a few minutes, flames were seen issuing in various quarters simultaneously. The flames worked up against the wind from the locality in which the fire originated, and in half an hour the whole of Yoshiwara was destroyed. With the exception of one or two fire proof godowns and the temple at the end, not a single stick was standing to mark the boundaries of dwellings. The fire spread towards and in the foreign settlement. The new American Consulate was soon level with the ground, and remnants flew around, then No. 1, the private residence of Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co. caught. In a few seconds it reached the whole settlement and soon the private residence of Walsh, Hall & Co. was on fire. Simultaneously with this the whole range of old consular buildings, French, Prussian, American, and English, in which latter several gentlemen of the English legation and consulate were residing, were swept off like so much tinder. The wind increased almost to a typhoon, the sparks communicated to the old native custom house, and in a short time, it was a thing of the past. Next the new bonded warehouse was destroyed. Other strips of buildings caught and soon the whole blocks 70, 50, 42 to 43, and 1 and 2, were black.

About 11 o'clock the wind shifted a little more easterly, and quickly laid hold of the houses and godowns in the new direction. No. 71 and part of No. 72 in the main street, and Nos. 51, 52, and 53 were speedily attacked; proceeding in the same direction Nos. 44 and 49, Nos. 24 to 28 and 3 to 8 became shrouded in the general woe.

The Club, was not consumed, although it caught fire once or twice; but it was terribly shaken by the explosions, and much damage was done to it. In most instances the houses blown down subsequently ignited and became an easy prey to the flames; On the 2nd of the first building that escaped was the French Hospital. Some of the other buildings on the lot were destroyed. At one time it seemed that Nos. 54 to 68 in the Main Street must inevitably go—but happily, although all received some damage it is of no very great extent. The blocks destroyed then, are 1, 2, 3, 4, a part of 5, 7, (Bungalow saved, but much damaged) 8, 21, 22, 23 (small bungalow saved) 24, 25, 26, 27, part of 28, part of 29, blown down, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, (part saved but much injured) 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, part of 54, 70, 71, 72, and No. 80. In addition to these, the block of buildings containing the French, American, Portuguese and Prussian Consulates and the old British Consulate buildings; the newly built American Consulate—the whole of Bonded Warehouse A, and all the adjoining buildings—the whole of the Japanese Custom House and the fire engine house. Of the native town, fully two thirds were utterly destroyed within two hours of the original bursting forth of the flames.

We are inclined to estimate the total loss at the fire in Japanese and foreign property—houses, godowns and goods—at between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000.

It is now ascertained that the fire had its origin in a small cookshop; some grease dripping on to the fire caused a blaze that caught the dry woodwork, and in a few minutes attained mastery over the whole place.

Our readers will however be able to learn full particulars of this disastrous affair from our other columns.

In commenting upon the catastrophe the *Overland Mail* says:—"As but very little produce has been burnt and a great impulse given to the Import trade by the destruction of many goods unsaleable at the moment and of others in demand; as, besides, the part of the town burnt did not include the residences of many of the chief native

merchants:—we anticipate great good will ultimately be reaped from the present disaster, at the expense of a little temporary inconvenience."

Coincident with the impulse thus given to the Import trade, came news to us direct from our own correspondent at Nagasaki and indirectly from other sources, to the effect that the Civil War in the Inland Sea is actually over. Troops continue to pour along the Tokaido daily into Yedo from the South, and everything seems to indicate that a change of policy was initiated by the death of the late Shogoon. There are not wanting those, of course, who insinuate that most likely that event was hastened by the necessity of making such a change. Be that as it may, it is certain that all his arrangements have been reversed. The great assembly of Daimios which was ordered before his death will not now take place, the most influential refusing to attend. Of those who were said to have come forward so boldly to help Stotsbashi, the Shogoon elect, many have thought it politic to feign sickness and have returned to their dominions—Edoizem, the staunchest friend the late generalissimo had, being the last to leave the Mikado's Court. This move is regarded as a censure on the late Government for its conduct in the affair with Chiosiu, and that chief remains therefore on the field with all the honours of war. He retains at the present moment his conquests in the Straits, opposite to his own territory. It will be remembered that, when the Shogoon was lying sick unto death at Kioto, Dr Baudoin, a Dutch Doctor of Nagasaki, was sent for to attend on him. This mark of confidence in foreign medicals has just been repeated. The Prince of Hizen being dangerously ill, a surgeon of his was sent to Nagasaki a few days before our correspondent wrote, which carried off Dr Baudoin again on a visit to an illustrious native patient. He had not returned when our letters left. The *Coromandel* had been sold to Kishiu for \$100,000; the *Ocaru*, a sailing vessel, had also passed into Japanese hands, having been bought by the Government for \$30,000, and other sailing vessels have also been bought or are being bought for the purpose, it is said, of taking rice from the South of Osaka, via the Bungo Channel, the ordinary route by the Inland Sea being closed at present by Chiosiu.

Large quantities of curios and specimens of native produce have been shipped to Europe by His Highness of Satsuma for the French Exhibition. By the P. & O. Str. *Asaf*, one of the partners of the firm of Glover & Co. left Yokohama for Nagasaki, there to take charge of the Prince's younger brothers on an expedition to Europe. Fourteen young Japanese gentlemen leave this port, also—bound to see the Paris Exhibition, by the present steamer—a very pretty addition to the passenger and freight list of the *Nepaul*. They go in charge of the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, Chaplain to H.M.S. *Seylla*. The recent edict of the Goroujin giving permission to their countrymen to travel, would thus seem to be in full force. A second expedition of tumblers and jugglers will leave Yokohama for San Francisco by the *Archibald* on the 3rd or 4th instant. But they have given the rival troupe too long a start and the novelty of the thing will have worn off. It is stated, we know not with what truth, that the notorious Col. Fisher is connected in some way with this speculation. On the 21st instant there was a general parade of all the available troops in Garrison, for the purpose of witnessing the presentation of silver medals for long service and good conduct, to Color Sergeant William Thompson and Private John Standford, of the 2d Battalion 20th Regiment.

AN EARTHQUAKE.

At about 5.26 A.M. on the 24th Nov. a very long and rather severe shock of earthquake was felt in Yokohama. The morning gun, an unusually loud one, had just been fired and it seemed the signal for the disturbance of the earth: so curiously, indeed, that when the rumbling noise of the earthquake was first heard, one might well have imagined the sound to be the echoes of the shot from the surrounding hills. This noise increased in intensity, becoming at last very marked, more so, indeed, than we ever recollect to have noticed as accompanying a similar convulsion. The usual results of a severe shock, such as water being thrown out of basins, upper stories rocking, and severe creaking of beams, &c., were very clear and many people were much alarmed. No mischief was done however, we are glad to hear.

THE COREA.

From the Corea we have additional particulars of the recent operations in that part of the world. The following interesting account is given by the correspondent of the *North China Herald* of the circumstances which led to the French withdrawal:—"The Regent seems determined to resist all attempts to penetrate into Corea. A general levy of men had been ordered, and the peaceable appearance of the country very soon began to change. Detachments of soldiers headed by officers on horseback appeared on the

left bank of the river, and the inhabitants of the Island of Kanghoa gradually disappeared from their labours of cultivation. Spies brought in word that troops were advancing to attack the French position. Admiral Roze therefore ordered a reconnaissance to be made across the river along the road leading to Seoul; and on the 26th October, about 150 men were detached to effect a landing. The whole line of the river opposite the French camp is flanked by a crenelated wall with a large gateway and a jetty advancing into the river. The French boats' crews had repeatedly landed there and had not seen any troops. No resistance therefore was expected and insufficient precautions were taken to make the landing successful. The boats advanced within thirty yards of the gateway, when the line of wall seemed alive with men, and a galling fire was poured down on the French, wounding twenty-five and killing two of the crews. One boat managed to get to the jetty and some sailors having been formed on shore they rushed through the gateway which was left open and attacked the Koreans with their bayonets, killing twenty and wounding others and putting the rest to flight. The reconnoitering party proceeded no further but returned to Kanghoa. A short time after a body of Korean soldiers, about 2,500, advanced along the road from Seoul carrying cannons suspended on bamboos in the Chinese style. Fire was opened on them with two rifled cannon at 1,000 yards, and afterwards 1,500 yards, and as the shells burst amongst them they fled to the mountains. They managed however to take their cannons with them. While the Koreans were thus preparing to invest the French camp on the side of the mainland news was brought in that three hundred troops had landed on the Island of Kanghoa during the preceding night and had established themselves in one of the forts. A gunboat was despatched to ascertain the correctness of this, and no trace of any boats except two small sampans could be found within a range of two miles of the spot where the troops were said to have disembarked. The French had previously destroyed more than two hundred junks, so as to cut off communication with the other side, and the absence of boats after a diligent search by the gunboat, caused the report of the troops landing to be disbelieved. The next day a spy came in and reported that five hundred more troops had landed during the night, and that an attempt would be made by a further increase of troops to dislodge the French from Kanghoa. Another reconnaissance was ordered by the Admiral, and its disastrous termination was perhaps the cause of the withdrawal of the French troops from a position that seemed no longer tenable, with the forces that the Admiral had at his disposal. The reconnoitering party of about 150 men advanced in the direction of a fortified Pagoda where the Koreans were supposed to be lodged. No signs were to be seen of troops, and the French had reached a retiring angle of the fort within 120 yards of the walls, when ramparts were suddenly manned by about 500 Korean soldiers and a heavy fire poured upon them. At the first volley thirty-five Frenchmen fell. Three were killed, the rest wounded, and amongst these were five officers. The ground where the French received this fire was quite open without any cover for the men, and the Commander ordered a rear movement to get under a ridge about three hundred yards distant. The Koreans perceiving this started from the fort walls and about one hundred and twenty of them sallied out in pursuit of the French. They were quickly received with a volley of rifle bullets, and they shortly after retreated inside the fort, leaving their dead. About twenty-five of the Koreans who rushed out against the French were clad in armour consisting of helmets, breast plates and thigh and arm-pieces. They are reported to have stood the fire of the French with coolness for about three minutes, and when they retreated they did so leisurely and without running. The French returned to the camps they had no artillery with them, nor did their diminished number permits them to penetrate further."

Further particulars will be found at length in our other columns.

CHINA.

NEWCHANG:—The weather at this port appears to have been as fine lately, as that they have enjoyed at Shanghai. The thermometer has not yet fallen below 20; but a further drop is daily expected. The *Talee*, which left on the 14th Nov. for Swatow, is expected to be the last ship out of port this season.

TIENTSIN:—The season at this port may now be considered at an end. The river at Tszu-chu-lin was frozen over on the 26th Nov., and quite a fleet of sailing vessels are at present fairly frozen in. It is possible the river may again open, but our correspondent expresses great doubt of it. A good deal of tea is still expected to, Russian consignment. About two thirds of the inland dealers in manufactures have departed; but a fair business is doing by those still here. A very active market in opium is reported,

with advancing rates. The cargoes of the *Corea* and *Yungtsai*, however, are not yet landed, the former being on the bar, the latter outside waiting high tides. Besides the sailing craft frozen in off the settlement, a number are detained at Taku by want of water on the bar.

From PEKING there is no news of any importance.

SHANGHAI.

We (Recorder) are informed that Mr Phelps, the special Agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, may be expected shortly in Shanghai. This place will doubtless benefit equally with Hongkong by the impulse which the new line will give to the China Trade.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received per *Nanking* from London to November 6th. Shirts were quoted at 13/9; Black Tea was very dull; No. 3 Tootle 32/; Discount 4 1/2 per cent. We have not heard of any political news being received.

The Banquets given in honor of St. Andrew's Day, by the Scotch members of the Shanghai community at the Club, and by the Brethren of the Cosmopolitan Lodge at the Oriental Room, both went off very successfully. Indeed from what we hear, the St. Andrew's Dinner appears this year to have been attended with even more success than on the last occasion. There was a good deal of speaking, with of course a strong national tinge, but not a single word was said which was not in good taste.

The French Gas Company will, we hear, be in a position to supply gas in about a week's time.

A party of gentlemen who had left Shanghai on a shooting excursion arrived at Sz-kong-ken, a place where the Soochow Creek branches off in three directions, at 2 p.m. on Sunday and there discovered a foreigner lying on the bank of the creek, clothed only in his shirt, and severely wounded in the left arm, apparently by a chopper or knife. He gave his name as Henry Albrecht and stated that he was a Prussian, adding that he had gone up the country with a companion, whose name our informant has forgotten, but who, Albrecht said, was an Englishman; and that about 9 p.m. on Saturday, when between Lo-k'o-dan and Quinean, he and his companion had been attacked while asleep by the Chinese in the boat. Their assailants, he stated, were armed with hatchets and knives; and he jumped overboard to save his life. His companion, he feared, had been murdered, as, after leaving the boat, he heard yells and cries of "My God, I am killed!" He subsequently saw the Chinamen run ashore, and he made his way during the night to the spot where he was found. It is of course impossible to form any estimate of the truth of the story given by the man; as, though it is not impossible that an attack of the kind described might have been made, it yet seems strange, if, as he alleged, he and his companion merely went upon a shooting excursion, what sufficient inducement there could be to cause the Chinese to make the attack. We imagine the man will be brought in a day or two to his Consul when the subject will of course be duly investigated, and the circumstances connected with it elucidated.

We regret to record another accident by drowning, namely that of Mr. W. Butcher, Chief Officer of the Opium ship *Waterwitch*, who fell overboard while stepping from the Hospital ship *Acorn*, on the night of the 2d

In accordance with instructions received from Peking, the Taotai has had a notice posted about the French Settlement and also in the Native City inviting the Chinese to send any articles of manufacture or produce whose friends in Europe would undertake to see that the goods were duly returned; and that the doubt at present existing in the minds of the Natives should be removed by their being informed, in a rider to the proclamation that such an arrangement had been entered into.

The followings have arrived at Shanghai during the last fortnight: *Johann Christoph*, from Hamburg; *Edith Haviland*, from Sydney. And the following have left: *Clary*, for London; *Jeanie*, for San Francisco; *Antelope*, for New York.

Business has been extremely dull—more intensely so perhaps from the prevalent rumour of unfavourable telegrams said to have been received via Kiachia. Arrangements for improving the lighting of the entrance to the river are still under discussion. It has been found necessary to abandon the Amherst Rocks on the ground of expense, and the North Saddle appears likely to be at length determined on. The great expense of building a secure foundation on the Amherst site, and the length of time—estimated at three years—that would be occupied in the undertaking, are held to be fatal objections. The second favourite scheme, therefore, has been fallen back on, and the North Saddle appears destined, after all, to bear the proposed new structure.

A troop of Japanese jugglers has, we learn, arrived in the *Nepaul*, en route for England. They intend first, however, to give a few performances in Shanghai.

A rumour was current yesterday, Dec. 6, of the loss of the British barque *Camilla*, which sailed a few days ago for London, but we cannot ascertain that it has any reliable foundation. Fears are also entertained for the *Silesia* from Foochow.

NANKING.—The Viceroy, we learn, has returned to Nanking, having, according to Chinese accounts, fought thirteen battles with the Nienfei and captured 10,000 men and enormous quantities of loot. The Nienfei are now said to be fairly exterminated from Shantung.

Our Foochow correspondent mentions the *John C. Munro*, as the only tea-ship which has left since his last report. She cleared on the 15th, with 6,426 piculs, bringing the total export of black tea to 343,347 piculs.

FORMOSA.—have private advices from Takao, but not of very late date. The embargo on Rice still continues, the crop being in during the early part of last month.

The New Taotai and suite have arrived at Takao per *Gorilla*, and Mr Carroll took charge of that Consulate on the 1st Nov. It is not expected however that his stay will be long.

HONGKONG.

Locally no events of striking interest have occurred. A "Memorandum" issued by H. E. the Governor has set at rest the fears of the Chinese respecting the imports to be levied on small fishing and trading junks, there being no intention to unduly embarrass them by heavy fees and port dues. The Mint Commission has concluded its duties and, according to popular rumour, sentinels posted. Our contemporary the *Press*, which appears to have some peculiar source of information, says "that the 'main conclusion' of the report is stated to be a recommendation that the Mint should not yet be closed." The report will be found to pay high compliments to Captain Kinjer. It will probably leave it to be inferred rather than openly express that better results might have been achieved if he had been allowed his own way from the first; but the comprehensive essay on the chances of a coined currency in China which it forms, will most likely tend to the conclusion that the empire would be more willing to take a Tael piece than a dollar, and if we are not misinformed, a proposal to try Tael pieces, and even a design for the coin, emanated some time ago from East Point, and has not received the approval of the Colonial Government." Further, the report points out "that the colony is under obligations to the officers of the Mint which would preclude the idea of effecting economy in the expenditure by closing the establishment to-morrow. It costs us no more to keep it going for sometime longer, in the hope that some change in the conditions of trade may give it a new chance of life, than to abandon the attempt at once. At present of course the whole place is paralysed and doing absolutely nothing, but it has been found by the Commission to be a very perfect and well organised institution in the hands of a man to whose skill and ability it owes everything which is promising in its constitution."

If all this be true, we cannot see that much has been done. We suspect however that the commission are of opinion that too short a time has as yet elapsed to allow of any very definite conclusion being come to as to what should be ultimately recommended. We must confess that at present we see no hope of its being an ultimate success unless the Chinese Government were to issue an edict compelling the universal use of coin in place of bullion—a very unlikely proceeding on its part.

Various establishments for coining false dollars have been discovered and broken up in Hongkong.

The criminals concerned in the *Lobra* piracy and the murder of a Chinese family have been duly executed. A petition (says our contemporary) signed by the heads of the most influential Chinese hong in this city has been forwarded to J. C. Whyte, Esq. in consequence of his intended resignation, begging him to retain his seat on the magisterial bench, as the petitioners are so impressed with the strict impartiality and justice with which he deals with all cases brought before him for adjudication.

The *Malacca P. & O. Steamer*, newly placed on this line, arrived a few days since. She is a splendid ship in all respects, and has evidently been fitted up under the direction of some officer practically acquainted with the requirements of the China Coast service. A report of her voyage will be found elsewhere.

There is a well grounded report of the intention of the Provincial Chinese Government to take steps for lighting the Pearl River from Hongkong to Canton. "We cannot but suspect, though we do not know, that the influence of foreign Consuls, or that of the Commissioner of Customs, or both combined, has been at work. But the adoption of the idea shews that the old tra-

ditions of exclusiveness are gradually losing their hold. We could hardly have had a greater proof of the beginning of a non-exclusive policy.

The Hongkong Rifle Association has at length commenced operations, its inauguration taking place under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor. Those interested in such matters will find full particulars in another page. The Douglas Challenge Cup (the gift of Mr D. Lapraik) has also been sailed for by the yachts entered at the Regatta, but it is not yet certain which vessel is the winner. From all we can learn, there is likely to be another race owing to the unfavourable weather on the last occasion.

CANTON.

A proclamation has been issued at Canton for the suppression of Gambling hells and brothels. The Chinese say that it rates the officers soundly for their venality, and complicity at crime, and is issued by order of the Governor-General. Its character is such that they do not care to give it any publicity which they can avoid. We have only heard of two posted in public, and they are so mutilated as to be unintelligible. Canton is beginning to feel the effect of the New Ordinances in Hongkong. The rawdies are abundant, and the bands of robbers have already commenced their depredations. Within the last two weeks there have been several successful raids by these banditti; in one a few nights since they secured a large amount of raw silk, and a reward of \$300 has been offered for their apprehension.

It may also be of some interest to many foreigners who have dealt with the well known shop in Hoanai, called "Bang-Sing," dealers in silks, embroidered screens, &c., to know that it was the object of a recent raid. On that day the proprietors had received a fraction over Taels 1901 in silver. As it was not paid out immediately or removed elsewhere, the robbers made a descent, entering from the roof, carried off the money and brutally murdered the younger of the two brothers who were masters of shop, and doubtless well known to many members of the mercantile community. The elder of the two was at his family residence, or it is to be feared he might have shared in the fate of his brother; and yet it is to be hoped not, because the chief of the gang was his own son. This youth, about 18 years old, was in the shop more or less, and came under reproach from his uncle more than once, on account of misbehaviour and sundry peccadilloes. He at length took his revenge and endeavoured at the same time to fill his pockets. The band which he had collected spent the forepart of the night in a school room in the rear of his father's shop, whence they gained access to the premises as above stated. The unfortunate victim was stabbed and cut in eighteen different places. The boy is now in custody, and in due course will end his days by being "cut to pieces" on the cross—the punishment infallibly awarded for such an unnatural crime. He has not as yet given up the names of his accomplices; but has endeavoured to implicate several persons against whom he had a grudge. Since these villainous robberies have commenced, prospects towards the end of the year look dark. It is said that the suppression of the gambling hells and brothels have turned such numbers of homeless wretches loose on the community, that they cannot or will not find any honourable employment to keep themselves from starvation, and thus band together and stake their lives on a venture which will bring relief by speedy death or the possession of a competence for several days or perhaps months to come. Desperation in such reckless creatures as Chinamen destitute of all moral sense, may yet work some unpleasant things for Canton.

It is to be hoped, however, that the authorities will have sufficient nerve to persevere in their new course and have strength and tact enough to carry it through to perfection.

AMERICANS IN CHINA.

The inauguration of a new and direct communication with the Pacific coast of America is likely to affect the interests of foreigners in China generally, and of Hongkong in particular, to a greater extent than the mere increase of facilities for travelling or transport of merchandise. Our Shanghai contemporary the *Recorder* predicts a somewhat livelier tone in after-dinner conversation, and our Yokohama friends are already talking of raising a new police force to meet the social contingencies which they expect will mark the advent of the new steamers. But Hongkong looks only to the main chance, and is but little disturbed at the idea of a few "rowdies" forming part of the valuable enterprising human freight brought by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. As for after-dinner conversation, regattas, cricket, rifle ranges, and the approaching races—to say nothing of four amateur theatrical companies, concerts, stereopticons, &c.—afford enough mental pabulum for the time at disposal for convivial chit-chat, after foreign topics are exhausted, so that the Colony will be comparatively unaffected in these matters. Of course the first and most notable change will be simply the fact that American citizens

and American goods conveyed from the v to these parts. But that the secondary r be a marked change existing between the The foreign trade of no longer be, to a pu in the hands of Br American concession tings, or whatever el ed, will no longer co usly as they now o British protection; community in China influence with the By a stretch of ima most fancy the esta States Consular serv of duly qualified in which service shall norable profession- liberal salaries, ins continuing to exist a mercantile and half ing any special tra partment, while ma energies in mercanti ged to "shool," as the British neighbours v duties are required, which may be predi the anticipated infi zens. And with probability of the of our own country b least stimulated, by action with the Chi so at length our o opening up of Chi would perhaps ha have thus brought our own direct effo

Such a change w our relations with t of Hongkong. No nee go-between be able to dwell at l within six miles of likely, moreover, th as the citizens of t remain long in th comrades induce the present gene We say "laziness" nine American t day for two years that time place im nicate independent enable him to ave t unnum, and we fee take the necessary of the present day against, as well as learn a difficult lang has no past tradit must work hard to with these already likely to work in e men of the future, commercial purpo he sinologists. Fa will acquire enoug make use of the or cessary, to conduct and they must be they do not maste the majority of "juggin" English.

But there is ye in connection with steamers and its p bears peculiarly or discussion at Ho the currency. Our in its use of this tion which is desat ion, but against w of direct commu affords some argu to establish a tal c rency would doub vantages as consi Great Britain ou proper to neither o to ourselves, and i coin simply to suit China trade, we m pieces as dollar pi recollecting that e every European n coin proper of alu The United Stat South America, u ever we may do, that the s are p producing contri nity not alter th na, while a largu heratop may be sate and frequen tween China and S ally established. is a sufficiently against the adopti it is certainly w taking any steps existing currency

THE ATLANTIC.

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the elder of the two was at ence, or it is to be feared shared in the fate of his et it is to be hoped not, bo- of the gang was his own son, 18 years old, was in the

ss, and came under reproof more than once, on account a and sundry pecculations. took his revenge and endea- me time to fill his pockets. he had collected spent the night in a school room in the

er's shop, whence they gain- e premises as were stated, te victim was stabbed and, in due course will y being "cut to pieces" on punishment infallibly award- unaturng crime. He has m up the names of his accom- endeavoured to implicate a against whom he had a these villainous robberies

need, prospects towards the look dark. It is said ppression of the gambling uthers have turned such artless wretches loose on the that they cannot or will not urable employment to keep m starvation, and thus band take their lives on a venture ag relief by speedy death or of a competence for several s months to come. Despe- reckless creatures as China- of all moral sense, may yet pleasant things for Canton.

ed, however, that the autho- sufficient nerve to perse- ew course and have strength gh to carry it through to per-

ERICANS IN CHINA.

ation of a new and direct n with the Pacific coast of ely to affect the interests of China generally, and of particular, to a greater ex- more increase of facilities or transport of merchandise. contemporary the Recorder what livelier tone in after- sation, and our Yokohama already talking of raising a force to meet the social con- which they expect will mark the of the new steamers. But s only to the main chan- the disturbed at the idea of a "forming part of the valu- human freight brought by Mail Steam-ship Company, dinner conversation, regattas, ranges, and the approach- say nothing of four amateur n-pautes, concerts, stereopti- umford enough mental chit- at disposal for convivial chit- foren topics are exhausted, Colony will be comparatively these matters. Of course most notable change will be fact that American citizens

and American goods can be expeditiously conveyed from the vast western continent to these parts. But it is not unlikely that the secondary result will eventually be a marked change in the relations now existing between foreigners and Chinese. The foreign trade of the open ports will no longer be, to a preponderant extent, in the hands of British subjects. The American concessions, settlements, locations, or whatever else they may be termed, will no longer compare disadvantageously as they now do, with those under British protection; and as the American community in China increases, so will its influence with the Chinese authorities. By a stretch of imagination, we can almost fancy the establishment of an United States Consular service, with a proper staff of duly qualified interpreters and clerks, which service shall be regarded as an honorable profession and be supported by liberal salaries, instead of its members continuing to exist as social Centaurs, half mercantile and half official, utterly lacking any special training in the latter department, while unable to employ their full energies in mercantile pursuits; and obliged to "school," as the Irish say, upon their British neighbours whenever interpretorial duties are required. This is one result which may be predicted in the future, of the anticipated influx of American Citizens. And with this result there is a probability of the slow-going officialism of our own country being superseded, or at least stimulated, by commendably "snari" action with the Chinese authorities. And so at length our cousins may effect the opening up of China—a result which it would perhaps be to our advantage to have thus brought about, rather than by our own direct efforts.

Such a change would naturally affect our relations with the Chinese population of Hongkong. No longer would the Chinese go-between be an absolute necessity, and no longer would the Chinese be able to dwell at large on the mainland within six miles of our shores. It is not likely, moreover, that so practical a people as the citizens of the States would consent to remain long in the subjection to native compradors induced by the laziness of the present generation of Englishmen. We say "laziness" advisedly. Tell a genuine American that an hour's work a day for two years would at the end of that time place him in a position to communicate independently with his clients, and enable him to save thousands of dollars per annum, and we feel pretty sure he would take the necessary trouble. Englishmen of the present day have tradition to fight against, as well as an indisposition to learn a difficult language. The American has no past tradition in China. But he must work hard to compete successfully with those already in the field; and he is likely to work in every way. The young men of the future, who learn Chinese for commercial purposes, are not likely to be sinologues. Far from it. But they will acquire enough to comprehend and make use of the ordinary vocabulary necessary to conduct a mercantile operation, and they must be bad linguists indeed if they do not master more of Chinese than the majority of compradors know of "pidgin" English.

But there is yet another consideration in connection with this new line of ocean steamers and its probable results, which bears peculiarly on a question now under discussion at Hongkong. We allude to the currency. Our contemporary the *Press*, in its issue of this day, mentions a suggestion which is deserving of some consideration, but against which the establishment of direct communication with America affords some arguments. It is proposed to establish a tael coin; and such a currency would doubtless possess many advantages as considered between China and Great Britain only. The dollar is a coin proper to neither country; is inconvenient to ourselves, and if we must produce some coin simply to suit the exigencies of our China trade, we might as well make tael pieces as dollar pieces. But it must be recollected that the dollar is accepted by every European nation, and that it is the coin proper of almost an entire continent. The United States, Spain, Mexico and South America, use no other; and whatever we may do, it must not be forgotten that there are the great precious-metal producing countries. They will very certainly not alter their coinage to suit China, while a larger influx of dollars than heretofore may be expected, when a constant and frequent communication between China and San Francisco is thoroughly established. We do not say that this is a sufficiently strong reason to urge against the adoption of the tael idea, but it is certainly worth consideration before taking any steps to do away with the existing currency.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

It is not often that we allude in our leading columns to matters unconnected with our interests in China, but the recent triumph of scientific skill which has placed in instantaneous communication two continents divided by the broad Atlantic, is so important in the history of the world that it becomes our duty to record the impression such news has created amongst foreigners in China. So far as Hongkong itself is concerned we cannot say that much enthusiasm has been displayed. One would naturally have expected that the completion of an undertaking, which practically brought within speaking distance the Governments, the press, and the richer commercial classes of two nations who, combined, might defy a world in arms, would be signalled by some demonstration after the manner of the Anglo Saxon habit; that some commemorative meeting, or at least a dinner, after which the flood-gates of colonial eloquence would be opened, would have been set on foot, and that a triumph of human skill such as this planet has never before witnessed would have been celebrated with universal pleasure. Whether it be that our naturally

phlegmatic disposition becomes still more un demonstrative in Hongkong than at home, we know not, but we simply put on record that the event has scarcely caused an interchange of domestic congratulation, much less any public notice. And yet we can hardly believe that there are any who can peruse without interest the accounts hitherto published of the almost miraculous skill which has successfully picked up, at a depth of 2½ miles in mid-Ocean, a cable not thicker than a man's arm; and there must be few who can read the narrative from the *Illustrated London News*, which we have published in another portion of our columns, without feeling unusual interest in following the hopes and fears of those who, in the little testing room, watched with breathless anxiety for the appearance of the ray of light which would proclaim the success of the mightiest undertaking—greater even than the successful laying of the former cable—which human brains and human hands had ever attempted. And with this belief we find it hard to reconcile the public indifference displayed on news arriving of the end being obtained.

We are perhaps wrong in saying above that this grand undertaking is "unconnected" with our interests in China. The success achieved on the bed of the Atlantic is a powerful incentive to extending electric communication to Eastern Asia, and we are glad to see that the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce have liberally expressed their views on this question through their Chairman, Mr Dent, with reference to the scheme proposed by Dr. Macgowan. We publish in another column the documents which have reached us, and quite irrespective of any question respecting the feasibility of that scheme, it is satisfactory to know that the British community in China approves of the introduction of a power which will, in the hereafter of the world's history, contribute in all probability even more than the terrible arms of modern warfare, to universal peace and prosperity. When the introduction of the first telegraph into China shall have become a matter of history, the names of those who thus advocate it will occupy no unhonoured position in connection with it; and if the first fruits of the news of the successes of Glass and Canning and Field, and those who are with them, are rather manifested in this colony by enlightened support to similar projects, it is perhaps hardly a matter for regret that such news has not been received with boisterous welcome and empty declamation.

THE TELEGRAPH IN CHINA.

A short time ago, Dr Macgowan submitted his telegraphic project to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, praying that the influence of that body might be exerted with the foreign consuls at Canton, to secure their support of his application to the Viceroy for permission to construct a telegraphic line between Hongkong and Canton. The Chamber complied with his request, and addressed a communication to each of the consuls commending of his enterprise, and immediately on the receipt of the letter from the Chamber, Baron Tranquaye, the French Consul, brought the subject before the Viceroy in the manner and with the result detailed in his communication to Mr Dent. Mr Robertson, B. B. M. Consul, who was absent at the time (as was also Mr Vice Consul Mayers) takes no action at present, as the Viceroy's views in matter have already been made known. The other consuls are also of opinion that no further action is at present called for. The following is the correspondence above referred to. The first is the letter sent from the Chamber of Commerce to the Consuls at Canton:—

"The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.—I take the liberty of addressing you in order of this chamber, on a subject which I feel fully convinced will have your valuable support. I refer to the project of Telegraphic communication between Hongkong and Canton, which is about to be inaugurated under the auspices of the East India Company's Commissioner, Dr. Macgowan. This gentleman will no doubt pay his respects to you personally, and explain more in detail the object that has brought him to China, so that I need not go further into the matter. My special aim in now addressing you is to solicit your interest and support, in laying the project of Telegraphic communication before His Excellency the Viceroy at Canton—and to urge upon him the great benefit that would result from a line between this port and that city. Dr Macgowan is perfectly ready to commence upon it, as soon as a concession is granted. I feel that there are great difficulties in the way, but those are not unlikely to be surmounted, if you bring your influence bear on His Excellency. Leaving the matter therefore in your hands, I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, JOHN DENT, Chairman."

The following is the reply received from the French Consul:—
"Consulat de France a Canton, Canton le 28th Novembre, 1866. Sir,—I had the honor to receive at Hongkong, the letter addressed to me by you on the 23rd November, by order of the General Chamber of Commerce, to request my support near H. E. the Viceroy of Canton for the proposed establishment of a telegraphic communication between this port and Hongkong, under the direction of Dr Macgowan, Commissioner of the East India Telegraph Company, and I lost no time on my return here, (on the 26th) to procure an interview with H. E.—which took place the next day, the 27th. I fully explained to H. E. the advantages of such a mode of communication, not only for its benefit to the foreign community and advantages in commercial transactions between natives, but perhaps more on account of its undoubted great utility to the Chinese Authorities, as it would enable them to secure immediate information in reported cases of piracy, smuggling and local disturbances. I laid before the Vice-roy many inducements having reference to the material interests involved in the projected enterprise, and I had the unexpected satisfaction to succeed in drawing the most serious attention of H. E. to the scheme and to hear from him that, as far as he was concerned, he

was ready to give it all the support in his power. Nevertheless, H. E. declined to assume the responsibility of making the desired concession from apprehension touching ill-will on the part of portions of the population, owing to their ignorance of the value of improvements and to the strength of their secular prejudices; in consequence of which, he considered it necessary to communicate with the chief of the Tsung-li-yamoun at Peking, to obtain his consent. But H. E. pledged himself to give his full adhesion to the scheme, when presenting it to the appreciation of the Tsung-li-yamoun, and he distinctly stated that in case of a favourable answer—which he greatly hoped to obtain—the enterprise might rely entirely upon his best protection. These promises, I am happy to say, were made in the presence of Dr Macgowan, who, having been admitted to the audience was able owing to his good knowledge of the Chinese language, to understand the questions of my interpreter and the answer of the Viceroy. H. E. will address a communication immediately to Peking, but he does not expect to have any answer in less than two months time. Allow me, in conclusion, to acknowledge the honor which, in the name of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, you have conferred on me by confiding to my support an undertaking of such magnitude to the interests of China, and of Chinese and foreign commerce. I shall endeavor to keep the subject before the Viceroy and to explain it to the Governor who, like the Viceroy, is a man of energy and favourable to progress. In like manner I shall bring the matter before the Superintendent of Customs in order to excite a general official interest in Dr Macgowan's great undertaking. I have the honor, &c. G. de TRAQUAYE, H. J. M. Consul. Honorable John Dent, Chairman of the General Chamber of Commerce of Hongkong."

LIGHTS TO CANTON.

ONE of the most tangible signs of an increase in civilization, and of an appreciation of its necessities, is to be found in the increase of facilities for intercommunication between various parts of any given State. The savage must emerge from the state of aboriginal barbarism before he becomes aware that mechanical appliances may advantageously supersede or supplement the unaided strength of bone or muscle. As his civilization increases, so facilities in the way of roads, &c., become necessary for the most advantageous application and use of the rude machines for transport which he constructs; and as the civilization assumes a higher form so do mechanics increase in perfection, until at length we behold the triumphs of modern times in the steamer and the railroad.

It may therefore be asserted that as a broad road, the civilization of a country may to a great extent be judged of by the degree to which art has been applied to render motion from place to place speedy and agreeable. Even the well lighted streets of a Western city afford an illustration of our meaning. Civilization renders time precious. The native of the West cannot afford to lose in enforced inactivity the early hours of darkness and light; and it becomes necessary to provide means for making locomotion as safe by night as by day. Hence we say that a well lighted street may be taken as the index of a certain state of high civilization when it is the result of a daily necessity, and not of some unusual festival or temporary excitement.

The Chinese appear to have just stepped on the confines of the Civilization of which we assume this trivial fact to be an index. They have reached what may be termed a fair state of "daylight" civilization, but this progress has not yet been so great as to compel the use of more hours than those included between sunrise and sunset. When we find that the streets of their chief cities are so furnished as to permit the night to be a working portion of the 24 hours, we may then predict that they are in material Civilization.

We have been led into these remarks on account of a well grounded report which has reached us of the intention of the Provincial Chinese Government to take steps for lighting the Pearl River from Hongkong to Canton. The fact that it has recognized the necessity of affording facilities for night traffic, illustrates both an increase of native business at Canton and a recognition of the duty of a government to facilitate such business by every means in its power. With increase of business in connection with Western nations comes an increased civilization. Even this, an elementary step in the progress which we believe will in future years mark the annals of China, would some few years ago have seemed as strange to the old foreign residents of Canton as the now visionary schemes described in the amusing leading article of our contemporary this morning sent to Hongkongites of the present day. It would be fully to imagine that this step is the result of the unaided reflection of the Viceroy of Canton. We cannot but suspect, though we do not know, that the influence of foreign Consuls, or that of the Commissioner of Customs, or both combined, has been at work. But even so, the adoption of the idea shows that the old traditions of exclusiveness are gradually losing their hold. Fancy lighting the way to Canton for foreign steamers! Could we have had a greater proof of the beginning of a non-exclusive policy?

As to the more individual interests concerned and benefited by this scheme, we can only congratulate the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, the Hongkong and Canton, and Macao Steam-boat Company, and the enterprising Mr Quok Acheong, on the aid thus rendered to them by the Chinese Authorities. While they will derive immediate and tangible good from the establishment of a thorough system of light-houses, there are few who will not participate to some extent in its advantages. Great as there will be, the evidence of an intention to assist instead of impede foreign relations is still more valuable.

THE CURRENCY IN INDIA.

THE currency question in India has advanced to a stage on the threshold of which at Hongkong it has, it is understood, for some time halted. A Commission appointed to enquire into the operation of the act 19, which established a government paper currency in India, has presented a report, from which the subject of the currency seems to have been very carefully studied, and its recommendations such as are likely to be satisfactory to government and to the people generally, native and foreign. For the present, we shall confine ourselves to indicating the chief points in the report, and its most interesting one, in view of our own position as minters of a dollar instead of a tael currency, relates to the proposal to introduce the English and Australian sovereign into India as a legal tender for ten rupees. The rupee is the coin with which the natives are familiar; its price is fixed by law, as that of the tae; is by weight; and the commission in effect recommended that gold coins of fifteen rupees, ten rupees, and five rupees, should be adopted, "as being likely to find more favour in the eyes of the masses than currency notes of like value. The same remark applies to the English or Australian sovereign, with the additional objection to it that it does not represent aliquot parts of the native currency. To assign gold to be generally circulated as a legal tender acceptable to the native population the Commission make their recommendation above noticed, and state their reasons:—

"The price of the Gold Mohur or Government piece of Rupees 15, as fixed by Act XVII. of 1835, is as nearly as possible the average market rate of the price of coined gold of the present day. That price, as sanctioned by law in 1835, seems to be the legitimate basis on which to found a gold legal tender coinage for India consisting of pieces of 10 and 5 Rupees respectively—the 10-Rupee pieces having the weight of 120 grains, and the 5-Rupee piece 60 grains troy. It is a favourite notion in some quarters to cause the English Sovereign to be issued as the representative of 10 Rupees in a legal tender, and this notion received the sanction of the Government of India in 1864 at the instance of Sir C. Trevelyan. But according to the evidence submitted generally to the commission, the conclusion can hardly now be resisted that the tendency in India is rather to raise a gold coin above par. If the tables of Prices be consulted for past years, the fact is clearly shown that the real par of the Sovereign is somewhat above Rs. 10. If this be admitted, and the evidence is such that no doubt can be entertained with regard to the fact, the Commission may per haps be excused for believing that the Government of India had not the advantage of exact information when it adopted the views imparted to the Secretary of State in 1864. Assuming what is stated with regard to the average value of the Sovereign to be correct, it is apparent that if such a tender, viz., of an English Sovereign at Rs. 10 were affirmed by law, it would be to offer the Sovereign for sale at a price of from 2 to 3 annas less than it can be general bought for at the ports of importation, or at the average rates in the country at large, that is to say, that with respect to the commodity of gold, with a view to the Gold Currency a departure is proposed from the principles on which the supply of a commodity to a country is invariably found to rest. It is then clear that a trade in gold, with an effectual Gold Currency, could not exist on such terms. It would be impossible for any Mint to buy gold at a less rate than importers can afford to take. And in like manner, having bought gold at given rates, the Mint, in other words the Government, could not afford to issue the new coins at a rate less than their intrinsic value, in which must be included a moderate seigniorage. The same argument applies to the purchase of Sovereigns coined in the British or Australian mints, the intrinsic value of which is more than 10 Rupees, or the nearly equal to that sum as to leave no margin for fluctuation or to pay the expense of mintage. The force of this argument is the more apparent when attention is given to the point, that the public debt and all other obligations in India have been contracted in Rupees."

The introduction of the British or Australian sovereign, as such, into China would be open to precisely the same objection that applies to it in India; but it is an open question whether a gold currency in aliquot coins of the tael might not prove as acceptable to the Chinese as sycee silver. If so, there would be a natural increase of the circulating medium that could not operate otherwise than favourably on the commerce of China. As regards the Paper currency in India the Commission are of opinion that it is capable of great expansion when better facilities are afforded for the encashment of notes; that opinions generally are greatly in favour of what is called the "universal note," if readily convertible, but that this ready convertibility is so difficult of accomplishment that a more detailed study of the subject seems desirable before recommending any specific measures. As regards a gold currency the Commission are opposed as already stated, to the introduction of the English sovereign as a legal tender for ten rupees, which was attempted by Sir Charles Trevelyan, inasmuch as the sovereign fetches in India two or three annas more than ten rupees, and the only tendency of the measure would be to raise the value of the rupee whilst artificially depreciating that of the sovereign.

THE STUDY OF CHINESE.

IS commenting upon an article which recently appeared in our columns respecting government Interpreters, the Shanghai Recorder makes some useful suggestions as to providing means for the acquisition of Chinese by those of the general public who choose to avail themselves of such facilities. It proposes a co-operative scheme between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States for the benefit of their respective countrymen. The remarks made by the Recorder are well deserving of attention, though we dissent from the proposition which our contemporary makes as a sequel thereto.

It is undoubtedly true that, as the Recorder says, the time is now fast

approaching when people in business will be no more inclined to employ merely native interpreters, than those in consular and diplomatic services now are; and when it will be quite as out of the way a proceeding on the part of the merchant to ask a comprador to render a business Chinese document into pidgin English, as it would be on the part of one of the consuls to ask such an individual to translate a dispatch. And to enable the merchant and other person to acquire a sufficient knowledge of the language we think that Government assistance might usefully be extended towards the formation of a college or school, such assistance principally taking the form of providing suitable teachers, European and native, books, and a building wherein such studies might be carried on. But our contemporary's proposition that such an establishment should be located at Peking, would in our opinion render its facilities practically useless. It must be of a local nature or would, for commercial purposes, utterly fail of success. What merchant would be willing to support one or two of his clerks for a year or two at Peking in order that at the expiration of that time he might return able to converse in an idiom that amongst the merchants of Hongkong, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Ningpo is of no earthly use? Doubtless the better educated Chinese do extensively understand the Mandarin dialect, but the better educated class is not precisely that through which such commodities as cotton, silk, teas, and the minor articles of trade are obtained.

The scheme advocated by the Recorder would be of great benefit to those settling at Tientsin, Newchwang or Chefoo, and of doubtful use to those resident at Shanghai. But the mercantile community at the three former ports is too restricted to furnish a very large contingent of students. Moreover, owing to the want of "pidgin" English as a common medium of communication with the natives, many of those living there have actually acquired sufficient of the Mandarin dialect to express themselves intelligibly on business matters and to understand what is said to them. The great evil which has to be encountered is the prevalence of the debased farrago of expressions forming the "pidgin" dialect, and hence our remarks are intended to apply almost exclusively to the ports from Canton to Shanghai and the river settlements inclusive. The chief necessity to the mercantile man is a knowledge of the *to'at* dialect; and to meet this want training institutions are necessary at, at least, two of the great trading centres in China—say Hongkong and Shanghai;—the former to embrace the Canton, Swatow and Amoy dialects, the latter giving instruction in those of Ningpo, Shanghai and the river ports. One thing is very certain: that the growing tendency of the Chinese to successfully absorb in native agencies the trade hitherto carried on through foreigners—a tendency commented on in the customs reports of nearly every small port for the past year,—can only be successfully combated by the European placing himself on a level with the native in the advantage he possesses of immediate colloquial communication with the original producer of articles of export, or the ultimate buyer of imports. It is not of course to be expected that the man who has spent some of his best years in China will sit down and study, *con amore*, a difficult dialect, unless some very palpable advantage were obtainable to his own interests. The past existence of foreigners in China has moreover unfitted most for again commencing student life. But we submit that it would be easy to make the future advancement of young men, who have just commenced or are about to commence a mercantile career in China, contingent upon their obtaining at least a sufficient command of the colloquial to dispense with the aid of untrustworthy interpreters. Such a system has, in one or two instances, been found to work well for the interests of the firms which have adopted it. More than this, much good would result from the necessarily more intimate knowledge of the Chinese, as they are, which would thus be obtained by those who are now dependant on their official representatives, missionaries or compradores, for all the information they now obtain.

THE CHINA BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

THE newly arrived stranger from Europe is often astonished at the fact that while Hongkong has been steadily increasing in population, and consequently in the number of residents well qualified to take an interest in literary matters, it should have allowed the China branch of the Royal Asiatic Society to be transferred to Shanghai. The inhabitants of the model settlement are not, that we are aware of, more given to scholastic pursuits than those of Hongkong, and though they have boasted many able sinologues amongst the Consular, Customs, and Missionary bodies, we have also an equal array of names in the paths of science, philology, and those studies which are more or less connected with the objects of such a society as that above named.

Competition is admitted by all to be a powerful incentive to effectiveness, whether it be in matters of business or pleasure. We cannot but imagine that there is ample room for the establishment of a sister branch of the Asiatic Society in Hongkong. The natural desire which the members of each branch would feel to render it the medium of giving the most valuable and interesting facts to the public must necessarily have a favourable tendency on the class of papers submitted to, and published by, the Committee. And we fully believe that Hongkong, and the ports in its immediate neighbourhood boast a sufficient number of men, well qualified to furnish new and interesting matter of all sorts, to render the establishment of a such a society, in this colony, a success.

One of the first grounds of objection against such a scheme would naturally

be that of expense. We cannot, however, see that there is any need for demanding a subscription which could be deemed a heavy tax on the pocket. And while on this subject we may allude to a method that would materially lighten the cost of publishing the various papers which it might be judged advisable to publish. It will be noticed that a new periodical has been announced to issue from the office of this paper, under the title of NOTES AND QUERIES ON CHINA AND JAPAN, the pages of which would afford, at all events temporarily, a favourable medium for giving to the world such documents as might be worth preservation. Sufficient assistance both in the shape of literary help and pecuniary contributions has been already promised to justify the projectors in carrying out their ideas, and the additional connection with a branch of the Asiatic Society would be a mutual benefit. We have but little hesitation in thus bringing under notice a publication emanating from this establishment, as the matter which it may contain will be furnished by the public at large, and not by an individual, though of course due editorial supervision will be maintained.

To return, however to our proposition respecting the society. The great difficulty in starting an institution of this nature is to find some one willing to take the initiative. The merchants of Hongkong have ever displayed a princely munificence when money has been required to forward a praiseworthy scheme, but in this case the difficulty does not lie in that direction. We can only hope that some one will be found of sufficient enterprise to take the necessary steps towards the formation of a local branch of the parent society, and in conclusion would draw the attention of the Government authorities to the aid they may render in the matter.

THE COREANS.

WHEN we first published our account of the Korean expedition, and expressed our well grounded opinion that their resources and civilization has been somewhat underestimated by the French Admiral, it was presumed by many that we were the victims of a hoax. As we then stated, however, our knowledge of the Korean character was in part derived from a personal acquaintance with certain Koreans, and in part from information afforded us by Chinese who had been in communication with people of that country for many years. We claimed for them only a higher status of civilization than that usually allowed them, and a recent article in the *North China Daily News*, which professes to be derived from a trustworthy source, confirms in a remarkable degree the statements we then made.

That there "is nothing new under the sun" is an old saying which the inventions of modern times are rather calculated to contradict. According to our Shanghai contemporary, however, this ancient saw is applicable to the very last invention recorded in these columns—the Snider Enfield to wit, for (says the *Daily News*), "strange to say, some of the cannon found at Kanghwa are breech loaders. This is effected by the Koreans in a most simple manner. A small cannon of the length of the charge and shot is placed in a cavity of the breech, somewhat of the shape of the opened Snider Enfield breech-loading rifle." This of course only applies to the principle developed in the modern army but is none the less remarkable, if the result of the unassisted inventive powers of the Koreans.

Poor Mr Snider (who, by the bye has been shamefully treated by our own Government) will now have to learn that his ideas have been forestalled by Korean semi-barbarians, and that his patent rights may be successfully disputed at Kanghwa should his inclination ever lead him to that most remote of Capitals. But this is not all. The artizanship of Prussia must hereafter hide its diminished head, for, says the same authority, "There is also a helmet here from Corea, and it certainly shows that the Korean armours are no mean handicraftsmen. It resembles a Prussian helmet in form, with a red plume surmounted by a trident, screwing into a spike at the summit. It is composed of iron, encased in moulded leather or papier maché, covered with laminae of steel and white copper ornaments. The leather case for this helmet is made of superior tanned leather, and the workmanship is equal, if not superior, to any article of European leather-work." Making every allowance for the natural tendency to exaggeration which distinguishes the first account of any hitherto unknown people, we can hardly refuse to admit that the Koreans are by no means (materially) the barbarians they have been considered. We have taken the two paragraphs above quoted, from a number of others which will be found in an extract in another portion of our columns, as confirmatory of the views we set forth and which were looked upon as delusions by our contemporaries. But assuming no more than the existence of a higher degree of civilization amongst the Koreans, than hitherto imagined, the question of the attitude assumed by Great Britain towards them becomes of greater importance than if they were merely a barbarian tribe without a literature or civil organization.

A letter from a correspondent in the North, extracts from which we published a few days since, pointed out that the Minister at Peking had nothing to do with Corea, which is merely tributary to China. But if such were *de facto* the case, he would be perfectly justified in demanding from the Chinese Government that they obtain satisfaction from the Koreans for the wanton murder of two British subjects. But, as we all know, this feudal subjection of Corea to China exists only in the performance of an empty ceremony, and the Chinese authorities have specifically declared that they are unable to coerce the Koreans in any way. We should have thought that under such circumstances the Minister at Peking would have request-

seems to have realised that he was awaking him and has at the same time found in tears. I have said that Ayook, also admits that boarded the *Luby* and was present during the piracy. He has persistently denied that he was in this he said was done by him. He would be quite correct in-Tao the other pirate was with him. Since his capture he maintained an air of ennui, his face and to anything that would surround him. He was brought by his mother and with his wife and children. He braided him for the coronation and asked him why he had

find her for an hour and a half,

1000

Suitable for the waistcoat pocket.

